ALL IN

13+ TEEN

6

Batgirl™

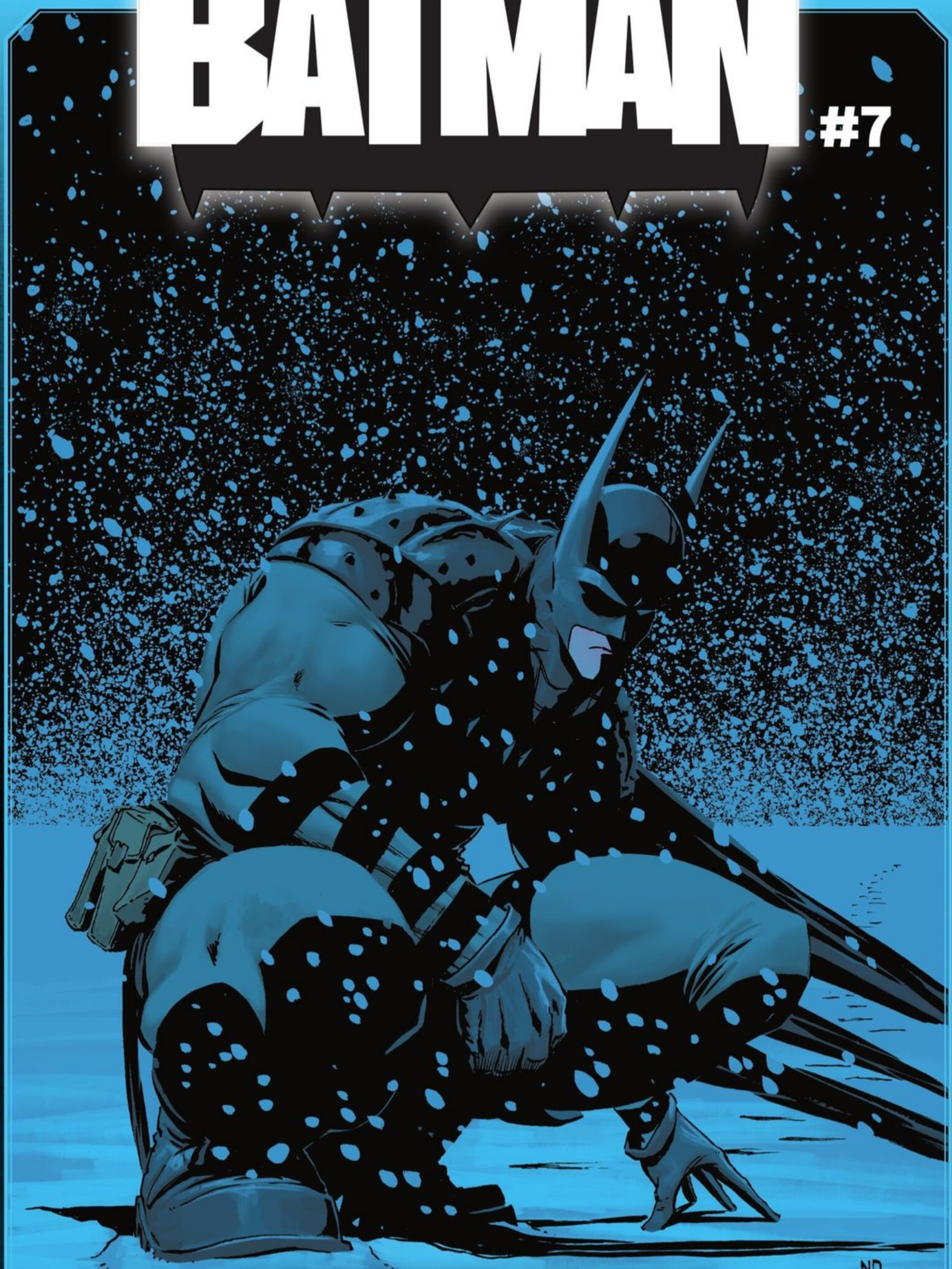
BROMBAL
MIYAZAWA
SPICER

MOTHER-DAUGHTER BONDING

ALL IN

ON SALE APRIL

ABSOLUTE BATMAN #7



GOTHAM'S PAST IS FROZEN IN FEAR.

Writer **SCOTT SNYDER** teams up with superstar artist **MARCOS MARTÍN** for a two-part story introducing a chilling new take on Mr. Freeze.

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WHAT IS A MOTHER?

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, CASSANDRA.

CAN'T YOU SEE?

IT'S HOW WE FIRST BEGAN...

SIMPLY THE PERSON WHO BIRTHED YOU?...OR IS SOMETHING MORE OWED?

WHAT IS A DAUGHTER?

...WE ONLY HAVE EACH OTHER NOW.

MERELY A RELATION DEMANDED BY BIRTH?...

...OR IS SOMETHING MORE OWED?

BATMAN CHOSE ME TO BE HIS DAUGHTER. I CHOSE HIM AS MY FATHER.

I DID NOT CHOOSE THIS.

BASED UPON THIS FAILURE OF A RESCUE ATTEMPT, YOU DO REALLY NEED MY HELP.

WHAT THEN ARE THESE TIES THAT BIND US, MOTHER?

I WOULDN'T BE HERE...IF KALDEN HADN'T FINISHED YOU WITH A MERE PUNCH.

DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS

BATGIRL

MOTHER PART 6 OF 6

TATE BROMBAL WRITER TAKESHI MIYAZAWA ARTIST
MIKE SPICER COLORS TOM NAPOLITANO LETTERS
DAVID TALASKI COVER INHYUK LEE VARIANT COVER JESSICA BERBEY EDITOR ROB LEVIN GROUP EDITOR

WHY?

WHY WHAT, DAUGHTER?

SPECIFY YOUR QUESTION OR IT'S A WASTED JAB.

WHY...DO THE UNBURIED WANT YOU?

OTHERS MAKE SENSE, BUT WHY...YOU?

BECAUSE, GIRL OF BATS, ***LADY SHIVA*** IS THE ONE WHO... ***WOKE US UP.***

KALDEN THE UNSEEN.

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE A HERO OF THE WORLD ***ABOVE,*** AS I AM OF THE ONE ***BELOW.***

THIS IS ALL SO... ***BRUTAL.***

HOWEVER, I CAN SEE YOUR MOTHER HAS NOT BEEN ENTIRELY ***HONEST*** WITH YOU IN REGARD TO HER ***TROUBLES*** AND OUR ***CRUSADE.***

ARE YOU ***SURPRISED?***

YOU SEE, BATGIRL, I COME FROM A ***VERY*** LONG LINE OF PEACEFUL PEOPLE. ***PEACE*** WAS OUR VERY ***FOUNDATION.***

MY ANCESTORS LIVED IN A ***SACRED VALLEY*** HIDDEN IN THE MOUNTAINS WHERE THE ***SUN*** ALWAYS SHONE. A ***PARADISE*** THAT WAS OPEN TO ***ANY*** WHO FOUND IT...

UNTIL WE WELCOMED A ***CRUEL MAN*** CENTURIES-BORN OF ENVY AND POWER. HE BROUGHT ***BLOOD*** TO OUR LANDS, AND FROM THAT HALLOWED GORE, ***BLUE POPPIES*** GREW.

RA'S AL GHUL RETURNED FOR OUR ***TRAGIC BOON*** WITH HIS ***LEAGUE*** AND THE ***BLOOD OF WU.***

WAR SUNDERED OUR VALLEY UNTIL THE EARTH ***SWALLOWED*** MY PEOPLE WHOLE.

AND YET, WE FAVORED ***PEACE,*** BATGIRL. EVEN IN THE ***RUINS*** OF OUR SMALL NATION, ***SUNKEN*** AND FINDING ONLY ***SHADOWS...*** WE DID NOT SEEK VENGEANCE. WE ***REBUILT.***

WE RESIGNED OURSELVES TO AN ***UNDERWORLD*** CARVED OF STONE. CHOOSING ***DARKNESS*** OUT OF FEAR AND ELUDING THOSE SEEKING TO ***PLUNDER,*** FORGETTING...

...THE ***SUN*** ONCE FAVORED ***US.***

WHY SHIVA?

YOU BLAME AL GHUL, THE BLOOD... BUT NOT **SHIVA.**

BEYOND HER **TWISTED** HISTORIES WITH **EACH...?**

SOME TIME AGO, LADY SHIVA DISCOVERED OUR HIDDEN WORLD BENEATH THE HIMALAYAS.

WE WERE CAUTIOUS BUT **CURIOUS** ABOUT HER...

IT HAD BEEN **GENERATIONS** SINCE CONTACT WITH THE SURFACE.

WE HAD QUESTIONS, SO MANY **NEEDS,** SO WE FOLLOWED OUR ANCESTORS' WAYS AND WELCOMED HER INTO OUR **BURIED HOME.**

YOUR MOTHER **ATE** OUR FOOD, **EARNED** OUR TRUST, **TRAINED** IN OUR WAYS...

...THEN **STOLE** OUR SACRED POPPIES AND **BETRAYED US!**

WE WERE JUST ANOTHER **CHALLENGE** FOR THE LADY SHIVA TO OVERCOME.

REDUCED TO AN **OBSTACLE** IN ANOTHER'S PATH TO GREED AND POWER, **ONCE MORE.**

WE **KNOW** OUR HISTORIES. **WAR** WOULD FOLLOW NEXT, SO WAR IS WHAT WE CHOSE--**FIRST,** THIS TIME.

WE SPREAD ACROSS THE GLOBE IN **NESTS** LIKE THIS ONE, PLANNING OUR ENEMIES' DOWNFALLS, AWAITING THE TIME TO **STRIKE!**

RA'S AL GHUL WAS DEAD WITH HIS **LEAGUE** IN SHAMBLES. THE **BLOOD** HAD GROWN LAZY IN COMMERCE, AND **LADY SHIVA** HAD NO ALLY TO HER NAME...

...UNTIL SHE FOUND **USE** IN HER ORDER AND CRAWLED BACK TO **YOU,** BATGIRL.

YOUR MOTHER **WOKE** US FROM COMPLACENCY, REMINDED US OF OUR **CRUEL ORIGINS,** SPARKED THIS RAZING **ABOVE** FOR WHAT HAPPENED **BELOW.**

PEACE ONLY SERVES THOSE WHO PROSPER FROM IT, AND MY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DENIED THE **SUN** FOR FAR TOO LONG.

WHAT IS **BURIED** WILL ALWAYS COME TO **LIGHT!**

THAT WILL BE ALL FOR NOW.

OUR SUBLIME **LEADER** SHALL ARRIVE SOON FOR AN **AUDIENCE** WITH YOU BOTH.

AGAIN! THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT.

THAT JUDGMENT IS TIRED, CASSANDRA.

YOU'VE SAID IT SINCE THE DAY YOU MET ME.

I WAS RIGHT. THIS ENTIRE TIME... CAN'T TRUST YOU!

THE UNBURIED. MY FRIENDS. ALL THE WOUNDED AND THE DEAD--

--ALL YOUR FAULT!

WHY?

SPECIFY, CASSAN--

WHY DID YOU DO IT?

THEY WERE GOOD, PEACEFUL...

...WHY?!

...

IT IS AS KALDEN SAID.

I RAN OUT OF CHALLENGES ABOVE...AND SO I SEARCHED BELOW.

PAIN.

AVOIDANCE.

I AM LADY SHIVA.

I AM WHAT I AM.

TRUTH.

AHEM

SORRY I'M LATE...

!

...I FOR ONE THOUGHT HE'D **NEVER** SHUT UP.

JAYESH?!

I **KNOW,** LITTLE BAT, I WAS MEANT TO REMAIN WITH THE **GETAWAY BIKE...**

thk thk

...BUT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NEED MY **HELP.**

THANK YOU.

IT IS WHAT I DO.

ENOUGH IDLE SENTIMENT.

THERE ARE **DEBTS** TO SETTLE, AND I SEEK TO **BURN** THIS UNDERWORLD TO **ASHES.**

NO! I ONLY CAME TO **RESCUE** YOU.

WELL, THE **HIGH PRIEST** RESCUED ME.

NO MORE **DEATH!**

DO YOU REALLY **BELIEVE** YOU COMMAND DEATH HERSELF? SHE IS **ALWAYS** CALLING.

YOU CAN EITHER **WIELD** HER OR FOREVER BE AT HER MER--

snip snip.

TELL...

...MY **DAUGHTER--**

--SHE IS LOVED!

NO!

boom.

boom.

boom.

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

JAYESH--!

COME ON!

I DESIRE **COMBAT** WITH THE WITCH TOO, BUT IN **WARS** LIKE THIS YOU CHOOSE YOUR **BATTLES** WITH TACT!

SHE **KILLED** HIM!

LISTEN!

NERGÜI THE UNKNOWN IS THE UNBURIED'S WEAPONS AND POTIONS MASTER.

WHAT **GOOD** WILL SHE BE IF WE ELIMINATE HER **INGREDIENTS?**

WE MUST FIND THE **BLUE POPPIES.**

DESTROY THEM. WEAKEN THEM **ALL.**

THE **FLOWERS** ARE **SACRED** TO THEM!

FIRE WILL ONLY MAKE MORE **FIRE.**

YES, BUT--

NO.

I AM **DONE** WITH YOUR **SCHEMES.**

WITH ALL THIS **DEATH!**

WE **FIGHT** OUR WAY OUT.

WE **BEAT** THE ODDS.

THAT'S IT.

DO YOU TRUST ME?

ARE YOU **JOKING?!**

. . .

FIND THEM.

NEVER.

HYYUUHH!

QUICK--

--MY HAND!

KOF!

KOFF!

IDIOTS.

WE NEED A *PLAN* AND AN *EXIT.*
THERE IS *ONE* EXIT. I CAME DOWN IT.
THEY HAVE THE *ADVANTAGE.* GENERATIONS HAVE ADAPTED TO THE WORLD *BELOW.*
EVEN WITH LIMITED *SIGHT,* KALDEN HAS TRAINED BEYOND HIS NEED FOR *VISION.*
WHO LEADS THEM?
WHAT?
KALDEN SAID THERE IS ANOTHER. A *SUBLIME* LEADER.
WHO *LEADS* THE UNBURIED?
THEY ARE LED BY THE *STRONGEST* OF THEM, DETERMINED ONLY THROUGH *COMBAT.*
IF THIS LEADER DEFEATED KALDEN, DESPITE HIS AUGMENTED *SPEED* AND *SENSES...*
...THEN I PRAY YOU NEVER FACE THEM, CASSANDRA, TILL THE DAY YOU ARE *READY.*
NOW LET US REACH THAT EXIT, RAINING *FIRE* AS WE GO.
NO.
AGAIN? WHAT IS THIS *TEMPER?*
YOU HAVE LIED AND... *TOYED* WITH ME *TOO LONG.*
I HAVE DONE *NO* SUCH THING.
THE UNBURIED WERE AT *PEACE* UNTIL YOU.
I WAS AT *PEACE* UNTIL *YOU!*
DON'T KID YOURSELF.
YOU HAD GROWN *STAGNANT,* LAZY, AND *PACIFIED* BY THAT PATHETIC *FAMILY!*
A FAMILY I *CHOSE.* YOU ONLY RUIN AND *DESTROY.* NO MORE BURNING *SACRED THINGS!*
WHAT DO YOU NOT *UNDERSTAND--?!*
YOU ARE *SACRED* TO ME, *DAUGHTER.*
AND *THAT* IS A WAR I *WILL NOT LOSE!*
TOUCH.
PRESSURE.
ANGER.
HEARTBEAT.

WHY...?

WASTED JAB.

YOU BROUGHT ME TO BÀ BAO FOR HEALING.

YOU CAME HERE TO RESCUE ME FROM DEATH.

WHY, AFTER EVERYTHING, DO YOU CHOOSE ME ONLY TO THEN RESIST ME SO...?

YOU ARE MY MOTHER.

I WAS BORN A WOUND.

I WANT TO TRUST YOU. TO CHOOSE YOU. BUT EVERY SINGLE TIME...THERE IS PAIN.

AND I AM TIRED... OF PAIN.

SOME WOUNDS NEVER HEAL.

WE ARE WHAT WE ARE.

I WILL HELP YOU ESCAPE.

THEN I AM DONE.

AND I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

AS YOU WISH.

WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE, THEN, DAUGHTER OF THE **BAT?**

SOMETHING MY **FATHER** TAUGHT ME.

FILL THE TUNNELS!
COVER THE EXIT!
THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY OUT--
--THROUGH US, THE UNBURIED!
AAAHHH!
THEY'RE COMING!
THEY'RE COMING!
EEEEE
EEEEE
EEEEE

EEEEEEE

EEEEEEE

KRAK

EEEEEEE

EEEEEEE

PAK

EEEEEEE

SORRY.

NOT SORRY.

KRAK

NO LUCK.

ONLY US.

FOR BÀ BAO!

FOR LIAM!

TONY!

VAN!

FOR JAYESH!

KRAK

STAY DOWN.

EEEE

EEEEEE

HURRY!

OVER HERE!

I'LL TAKE YOU AS FAR AS I CAN.

SHIIIIVA!

COME ON!

...

NO.

THIS IS NOT WHERE MY ***PATH*** LEADS.

SHIVA ***YIELDS*** NO MORE.

GLANCE.

WHAT?

YOU'RE RIGHT. THIS IS A WOUND ONLY I CAN CLOSE.

GO AND FIND THE **BRONZE TIGER.** HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN **HELP** YOU NOW.

TOUCH.

SMILE.

HEARTBEAT.

THESE ARE THE WAYS MY MOTHER SAYS SHE **LOVES** ME.

THEY'LL KILL YOU!

IF YOU MAY LIVE, LET **DEATH** BE MY GREATEST **CHALLENGE** YET.

YOU'D **DIE** FOR--?

NO, **MOM,** I CHOOSE YOU. **I CHOOSE YOU!**

GO! LET ME BE **SOFT** ONCE MORE, MY SOFTNESS!

FIND **BENJAMIN TURNER!**

ASK HIM ABOUT--

--THE **JADE TIGER!**

AND MAY **MAHĀKĀLA** GUIDE OUR **HANDS.**

WHAT IS A **MOTHER?**

SIMPLY THE PERSON WHO **BIRTHED** YOU?

NO. SOMETHING MORE IS **OWED.**

A MOTHER **PROTECTS.**

A MOTHER **TEACHES.**

SHE CAUSES **PAIN,** YES--

--JUST AS SHE **NURTURES.**

A MOTHER ALWAYS **SACRIFICES...**

...IN THE NAME OF HER **CHILD.**

SO HER CHILD MAY **LIVE--**

--EVEN AS SHE **DIES.**

NO!

WHAT IS A **DAUGHTER?**

MERELY A RELATION DEMANDED BY BIRTH...

...OR IS SOMETHING MORE **OWED?**

THESE ARE THE TIES THAT BIND US--

--IN **LIFE** AND IN **DEATH.**

NEXT: THE DEFINITIVE HISTORY OF LADY SHIVA!

THIS IS PRETTY GREAT, HUH? BEING WITH OUR FRIENDS, NO BAD GUYS SMASHING THROUGH A WALL AND TRYING TO KILL EVERYONE.

ARE *THOSE* YOUR STANDARDS FOR A GOOD TIME? NO ONE TRYING TO *KILL* YOU? WE CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I'M SAYING I'M HAVING *FUN.*

THANK YOU FOR MAKING ME DO THIS.

Fire & Ice

When Hell Freezes Over #1 Preview

WRITER JOANNE STARER
ARTIST STEPHEN BYRNE
LETTERER ARIANA MAHER

OH, THE FUN HASN'T STARTED YET.

NOT TILL YOU GET UP THERE AND *SING.*

TORA! COME ON!

NO, NO. I'M NOT SINGING.

THAT'S NOT FOR ME.

YOU KNOW YOU *WANT* TO.

YOU JUST NEED A LITTLE...

...*PUSH.*

SO YOU'RE ZATANNA'S LITTLE COUSIN?

YOUNGER COUSIN. ZACH.

RIGHT. WELL. GRODD'S MY BIG BROTHER, SO... I GET IT.

GET WHAT?!

BEING LOST IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SHADOW.

I AM IN *NO ONE'S* SHADOW.

YOU ARE LITERALLY COSPLAYING AS ZATANNA, DUDE.

THIS IS *FASHION.*

Let me go hom... go hoooomeee!

WELL, I FEEL SO BROKE UP.

I WANNA GO HOME!

LET ME LA LA. BLAH BLAH LA LA...

...GONNA FIND SOME MAGIC TO LET ME GO FWOOM...

TOO DANGEROUS.

TOO CREEPY.

NOPE!

NOPE NOPE NOPE.

BEA, YOU WERE RIGHT! THIS IS A ***BLAST!***

YOU GOTTA GET UP HERE!

...BEA? WHERE'D YOU GO?

MONKEY'S PAW! NOW WE'RE COOKIN'. THESE THINGS GRANT WISHES, RIGHT?

I HOPE LINKA DOESN'T SEE THIS.

TACKY. LOVE IT.

HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN BEA?

LAST I SAW SHE WAS OVER--

WAIT, BEA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I WISH FOR TORA AND I TO HAVE OUR CORRECT POWERS AGAIN...

BEA! NO!

W-WHAT?!

OH, C'MON. CAN'T WE HAVE ONE NIGHT WITHOUT SHENANIGANS?!

LOOK WHO WE'RE WITH, DINAH.

STOP HER!

...AND IF I COULD GET A PAIR OF PERKY NEW C CUPS TOO, THAT'D BE GREAT. GRAVITY HASN'T BEEN KIND TO THE GIRLS.

WOOOSH

...I WASN'T DONE WITH THAT BEER.

TO BE CONTINUED IN Fire & Ice #1 WHEN HELL FREEZES OVER ON SALE IN MARCH!

MURDER ON MOUNT OLYMPUS!

WONDER WOMAN

#20

Written by
TOM KING

Art by
GUILLEM MARCH

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Cover by DANIEL SAMPERE

ALL IN

APRIL

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

ALL IN

ABSOLUTE GREEN LANTERN

INTERVIEW WITH AL EWING

Following the debuts of *Absolute Flash* and *Absolute Martian Manhunter*, the Absolute Universe adds a sixth new ongoing series this spring with *Absolute Green Lantern* from writer Al Ewing (*Metamorpho: The Element Man*) and artist Jahnoy Linsday (*Superboy: The Man of Tomorrow*).

In Absolute fashion, this series completely reimagines the world of Green Lantern while retaining essential elements. *Absolute Green Lantern* blends the realms of horror and science-fiction as familiar characters play very unexpected roles—starting with a Green Lantern symbol mysteriously landing in the town of Evergreen, Nevada, and Abin Sur providing Hal Jordan with a new power that's very different from a Green Lantern ring.

What was most exciting to you about the opportunity to reinvent the Green Lantern mythos from the ground up?

I get to give the readers a surprise. I get to have a readership that doesn't know what the Green Lantern is, doesn't know who Green Lantern is, doesn't know the rules. That's not an opportunity that comes along very often—to take a known property and make it unknown. That's a lot of fun.

How did you decide on Jo Mullein as the lead character for this story?

I needed somebody who could fill quite an active role in the story. I had characters from the Green Lantern mythos who could fulfill a horror-based role; I needed somebody who could act as the reader's eye, but also a person of action. Somebody who could make big, active decisions. Out of all the people who have worn a Green Lantern ring, Jo jumped forward at me as someone who really ticked every box I needed.

She's also a mystery for the reader. There are a lot of mysteries to her, which we will uncover—how she's similar to the character readers know from *Far Sector*, and how she's very different.

Why is Jahnoy Lindsay the perfect artist to bring *Absolute Green Lantern* to life?

He's really fantastic. He can handle everything we need him to. There are moments of big, sudden, fast action—there are moments in issue #1 that'll just knock you out of your seat. That's all Jahnoy. There are also moments of building, rising tension and emotion. He's very good at that. You can feel the tension. You can feel the terror.

DON'T MISS
ABSOLUTE GREEN LANTERN #1,
ON SALE IN APRIL!

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